

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

100645Z Nov 03

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 005076

SIPDIS

AIDAC

FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

STATE FOR AS/PRM, PRM/P, EUR/WE AND IO/EDA
USAID FOR A/AID, AA/DCHA, AA/AFR, DCHA/FFP LANDIS, PPC/DP,
PPC/DC
USDA/FAS FOR CHAMBLISS/TILSWORTH/GAINOR
GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR MOLEY, RMA AND NKYLOH/USAID
USUN FOR AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE AND MLUTZ
USMISSION GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR MOLRY AND USAID/KYLOH
BRUSSELS FOR USAID/LERNER
NSC FOR JDWORKEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [EAGR](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [KUNR](#) [WFP](#) [UN](#)

SUBJECT: AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT WFP'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2004-2007
AS APPROVED AT THE THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE WORLD FOOD
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE BOARD, ROME, OCTOBER 20-24, 2003

REF: (A) ROME 5035, (B) ROME 4996

SUMMARY

1. WFP'S EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVED THE ORGANIZATION'S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2004-2007, WITH THE CAVEAT THAT THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE GUIDED BY THE CONSIDERATIONS RAISED BY THE BOARD AS REFLECTED BY THE SUMMARY RECORD OF THE DISCUSSION. THE BOARD RECOGNIZED THAT IT IS A LIVING DOCUMENT THAT INCLUDES REFERENCE TO WORK IN PROGRESS AND WORK TO BE INITIATED DURING THE PLAN PERIOD. THE BOARD AGREED THAT WFP SHOULD FOCUS ITS OPERATIONS ON ACHIEVING THE FIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF: (A) SAVING LIVES IN CRISIS SITUATIONS; (B) PROTECTING LIVELIHOODS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS AND ENHANCING RESILIENCE TO SHOCKS; (C) SUPPORTING THE IMPROVED NUTRITION AND HEALTH STATUS OF CHILDREN, MOTHERS AND OTHER VULNERABLE PEOPLE; (D) SUPPORTING ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND REDUCING GENDER DISPARITY IN ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING; AND (E) HELPING GOVERNMENTS ESTABLISH AND MANAGE NATIONAL FOOD-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THE BOARD FAVORABLY NOTED THAT THE PLAN REFLECTS A RESULTS-BASED APPROACH AND INCLUDES A RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY, AS WELL AS OTHER MEASURES TO ATTAIN EFFECTIVE OPERATIONAL CAPACITY. WITHIN THE RESULTS-BASED FRAMEWORK, A SET OF EXPECTED RESULTS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IS PROPOSED FOR EACH STRATEGIC PRIORITY, AGAINST WHICH PROGRESS WILL BE MONITORED OVER THE PLANNING PERIOD. FINALLY, THE BOARD ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL THAT BY 2007 AT LEAST 90 PERCENT OF WFP'S UNDIRECTED MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES FROM TRADITIONAL DONORS SHOULD GO TO COUNTRIES THAT: A) ARE LEAST DEVELOPED OR HAVE AN EQUALLY LOW INCOME; AND B) FACE A PROBLEM OF WIDESPREAD CHRONIC MALNUTRITION MEASURED AS A RATE OF UNDER-FIVE STUNTING GREATER THAN 25 PERCENT. END SUMMARY.

U.S. POSITION

2. THE UNITED STATES WAS LARGELY SUPPORTIVE OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN. MOST OF THE PLAN LINKS WELL WITH THE NEW STRATEGY BEING DEVELOPED BY THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) IN MANAGING THE GOALS OF THE PUBLIC LAW 480 TITLE II FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THE U.S. HAS BEEN A LEADING VOICE ON THE BOARD THAT WFP SHOULD FOCUS ON WHAT IT DOES BEST, WHICH IS THE PROVISION EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (I.E., WFP DELIVERED 68 PERCENT OF WORLDWIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN 2002). IN PARTICULAR, THE U.S. STRESSED THAT PRIMARY FOCUS SHOULD BE ON PRIORITIES ONE AND TWO - SAVING LIVES AND PROTECTING LIVELIHOODS - AND THAT PRIORITIZATION BECOMES INEVITABLE WHEN THERE ARE FUNDING SHORTFALLS. FINALLY, SPEAKING AS AN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER (AS OPPOSED TO OUR ROLE AS THE ORGANIZATION'S PRINCIPAL DONOR), USDEL APPLAUDED THE STRIDES MADE IN THIS DOCUMENT (WORK-IN-PROGRESS) WHILE CAUTIONING THAT THE PLAN MAY BE OVERLY AMBITIOUS.

OTHER INTERVENTIONS

3. IT WAS PROPOSED BY SWEDEN (AND ACCEPTED BY THE WFP SECRETARIAT) THAT WFP SHOULD DECLARE ITS FORMAL SUPPORT FOR

SIPDIS

THE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES OF HUMANITY, IMPARTIALITY, NEUTRALITY AND INDEPENDENCE. WFP AGREED TO PRESENT A PAPER TO THE BOARD (FEBRUARY 2004) REFLECTING THESE PRINCIPLES,

ROME 00005076 002 OF 003

OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN TO BE CONSIDERED IN 2005.

14. ON WFP'S PROPOSAL THAT BY 2007 AT LEAST 90 PERCENT OF WFP'S UNDIRECTED MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES FROM TRADITIONAL DONORS SHOULD GO TO COUNTRIES THAT: A) ARE LEAST DEVELOPED OR HAVE AN EQUALLY LOW INCOME; AND B) FACE A PROBLEM OF WIDESPREAD CHRONIC MALNUTRITION MEASURED AS A RATE OF UNDER-FIVE STUNTING GREATER THAN 25 PERCENT - SOME MEMBERS (READ THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP - GRULAC) - STATED THAT THE ADOPTION OF THE INCOME CRITERIA WOULD PENALIZE AT LEAST 11 LOW INCOME FOOD-DEFICIT COUNTRIES (LIFDCS). THEY THEREFORE STRESSED THAT THE IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES OF GREATEST NEED SHOULD BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE LIDCS WITH INCOMES GREATER THAN THOSE OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OR WITH A PREVALENCE OF CHILD STUNTING GREATER THAN 25 PERCENT. SOME MEMBERS STATE THAT POCKETS OF HUNGER ALSO EXIST IN RELATIVELY WELL-OFF COUNTRIES AND FELT THAT THESE SHOULD ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FROM WFP.

15. NOTE: USDEL'S POSITION ON THIS TOPIC IS GUIDED BY THE U.S. FOOD AID AND FOOD SECURITY POLICY PAPER (1995) WHICH CLEARLY PRESCRIBES THAT THE FOOD AID FROM THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PRIMARILY BE FOCUSED ON SOUTH ASIA AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. MUCH LIKE THE WFP STRATEGY PAPER PRESENTED AT THIS SESSION, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT FOOD ASSISTANCE WOULD NOT GO TO THE LATIN AMERICA (LAC) REGION. AS THE WFP STRATEGY ACKNOWLEDGES IN SEVERAL PLACES, HIGHLY TARGETED FOOD AID INTERVENTIONS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR SOME COUNTRIES EVEN WHEN THERE ARE NO PRESSING NEEDS FOR LARGE TRANSFERS OF FOOD AID. EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE AND NATIONAL SAFETY NET MEASURES TO COMBAT MALNUTRITION WOULD STILL BE NECESSARY. MUCH AS THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO PROVIDE TARGETED BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT FOOD AID ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT THE LAC REGION, WFP WOULD ALSO MAINTAIN PROGRAMS. HOWEVER THESE PROGRAMS WOULD RELY UPON DIRECTED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DONORS FOR THESE ACTIVITIES. END NOTE.

16. AS EXPLAINED BY THE WFP SECRETARIAT, 90 PERCENT OF WFP'S DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES WILL BE FOCUSED BY 2007 IN 36 COUNTRIES, 29 OF WHICH WILL BE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS). ON FAO'S LIST OF 84 LIFDCS, WFP COMMENTED THAT FAO RELIED HEAVILY ON ESTIMATES OF PER CAPITA FOOD AVAILABILITY - WITH THE DOWNSIDE THAT THESE AGGREGATES ARE TOO OFTEN BASED ON INCOMPLETE DATA FOR BOTH FOOD PRODUCTION AND TRADE.

NOTE. FOR SOME COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, PRODUCTION STATISTICS FOR CERTAIN SUBSISTENCE CROPS TEND TO GET UNDERESTIMATED. FURTHERMORE, MUCH TRADE IN FOOD ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS GOES UNRECORDED. FAO ATTEMPTS TO ACCOUNT FOR SUCH DEFICIENCIES AND ARRIVE AT PLAUSIBLE ESTIMATES BY RESORTING TO IMPUTATIONS BUT THIS DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE RESULTING PER-CAPITA FOOD AVAILABILITY FIGURES ARE FREE FROM ERRORS. END NOTE.

17. SECRETARIAT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) WAS ON RECORD THAT "STUNTING" WAS AN ESSENTIAL INDICATOR FOR MEASURING CHRONIC MALNUTRITION. WFP STATED THAT UNICEF DATA FOR THE ANNUAL "STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN REPORT" WOULD ALSO BE FIGURED INTO ITS COUNTRY SELECTION CRITERIA ANALYSIS.

18. IN GENERAL, THE BOARD REQUESTED WFP TO PURSUE A FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO THE QUESTION OF COUNTRY PRESENCE, WHICH SHOULD BE SUITABLY MATCHED TO THE NATURE AND SCALE OF THE PROGRAM TO BE MANAGED, TAKING ACCOUNT OF OTHER APPROACHES BEING DEVELOPED ELSEWHERE IN THE UN SYSTEM. IN SOME SITUATIONS, A SMALL OFFICE HEADED BY A WFP INTERNATIONAL OFFICER, EITHER

ROME 00005076 003 OF 003

APPROPRIATE THAN A FULL COUNTRY OFFICE. IN OTHERS, WFP'S PRESENCE MAY CONSIST OF AN OFFICE MANNED BY A NATIONAL OFFICER WORKING FROM THE PREMISES OF ANOTHER UN AGENCY OR, FOR EXAMPLE, A WFP VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT MAPPING (VAM) UNIT WORKING WITHIN A GOVERNMENT MINISTRY.

WFP RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

19. THE BOARD RECOGNIZED THAT A PRO-ACTIVE RESOURCES STRATEGY THAT BROADENS THE DONOR BASE AND ENGAGES THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES SET OUT IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN. MEMBERS LOOKED FORWARD TO INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS EARLY IN 2004 TO FURTHER DISCUSS: THE DEFINITION OF EMERGING AND TRADITIONAL DONORS; MECHANISMS FOR ENCOURAGING EMERGING DONORS THROUGH LEVERAGING, PARTICULARLY TWINNING ARRANGEMENTS; AND THE USE OF CASH DONATIONS TO PURCHASE FOOD. THE BOARD EMPHASIZED THAT

PRIVATE SECTOR RELATIONS MUST BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE
PURVIEW OF THE BOARD. THERE NEEDS TO BE DIALOGUE,
CONSULTATION AND REPORTS BACK TO THE BOARD ON INITIATIVES
WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR. IN THE SAME SPIRIT IT IS IMPORTANT
THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR DONOR FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE ROLE AND
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD.

COMMENT

10. THE BOARD FORTUNATELY CAME TO THE REALIZATION THAT "THE
PERFECT IS THE ENEMY OF THE GOOD," THAT THE 2004-2007
STRATEGIC PLAN IS A WORK IN PROGRESS, A LIVING DOCUMENT
WHICH WILL REQUIRE FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH THE MEMBERSHIP
AND DECISIONS BY THE BOARD AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. AS THE
PERUVIAN DELEGATE SUMMED IT UP: "YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE IN
FAVOR OF THE PLAN, BUT ONLY AGREEABLE TO LIVING WITH THE
CAREFULLY CRAFTED COMPROMISE." HALL

NNNN
2003ROME05076 - Classification: UNCLASSIFIED